



Lambda Letters Project

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

32637

Vol. 9, No. 11

November, 2001

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Disappointment

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Sometimes I am really disappointed in the gay community. I am a 63-year-old gay man and, having lived through what I have lived through, I am saddened that our community is not more eager to help other communities as they face bigotry and discrimination.

In September we asked our members to sign a letter in support of a bill to offer in-state tuition rates to certain undocumented immigrants. It was our People of Color (POC) issue for the month. The LGBT letter in September was signed by 734 people, but only 406 signed the POC letter.

Several people said they do not support "illegals." How soon we forget. A scant 25 years ago, lesbians and gays were the "illegals" in California. Gay sex was illegal and those who opposed civil rights for our community said we were law-breakers who did not deserve protection from discrimination.

Actually we are still "illegals" in 15 states. Today 12 states have sodomy laws that apply to both heterosexual and homosexual couples: Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia. Three states have sodomy laws that apply only

Continued on page 16

What a Good Year!

Thank you for the wonderful year. We lost on some important bills but we won on some good ones. And you all sent over 133,000 letters and e-mails to elected officials. We are becoming a major force for good in California. But now it's time to take a rest. The many volunteers at Lambda Letters have labored hard all year and now we are giving them some time off. As a result, this is the last regular mailing you will receive from us in 2001. The next regular mailing begins in January, 2002. We wish you well and hope you enjoy the holidays. ###

Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited to attend Lambda Letters' annual meeting, which takes place Saturday, January 19, 2002, at 9:30 AM at the Lambda Community Center (1927 L Street) in Sacramento. If you are unable to attend, please complete and return the enclosed proxy right away, as we must have a quorum of one-third of the membership (in person or by proxy) to conduct business. Even if you later do attend, you may revoke your proxy and vote in person. ###

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

September, 2001	30,079 letters & e-mails
In all of 2001	136,204 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

September, 2001	\$6,395
In all of 2001	\$38,514

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

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The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

Postmaster: send address changes to

Lambda Letters Project, 4577 Park Blvd. #4, San Diego, CA 92116.

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Support Access to Clean Needles

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Please write to the members of the Assembly Health Committee in support of AB 1292. This bill is expected to be heard in that committee in January, 2002. AB 1292 was introduced by Assemblymember Dion Aroner (D-Berkeley). The bill would permit the purchase of sterile syringes in a pharmacy without a prescription, and decriminalize the possession of syringes.

California is one of only five states that requires a prescription to purchase a syringe. According to the State Office of AIDS, the sharing of contaminated syringes is linked to 19 percent of all AIDS cases in California. In California, 37.3 percent of cumulative AIDS cases among women, 24.3 percent of cases among African-American men and women, and 22.4 percent of cases among Latinas are linked to injection drug use.

According to data from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in Silver Springs, Maryland, the cost of treating people with HIV is high. It ranges from \$20,000 to \$24,700 per year.

The use of dirty syringes also contributes to the spread of other serious diseases. For example, according to the *American Journal of Medicine*, there are an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 Californians currently infected with Hepatitis C. Probably 60 percent of these cases resulted from the sharing of dirty syringes. Hepatitis C often leads to chronic liver disease, which can cost as much as \$20,000 per year to treat. If a liver transplant is needed, the surgery costs \$300,000 dollars.

You might say that all of this could be avoided if "those people" just stopped taking drugs. That is easy to say, but for many drugs it is very hard to do. For the hard drugs like heroin, people need treatment and the number of treatment slots are way below the number needed. For example, the National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that of the estimated 4 million drug addicts in the United States, 800,000 are addicted to heroin. There are only 115,000 methadone slots nationwide to treat all those heroin addicts.

Continued on page 16

Abortion: A Threat to National Security?

by Adrienne Lauby

Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, has saved millions of women's lives. Yet we can expect Attorney General John Ashcroft and the current resident of the White House to tell the U.S. Senate that adding an anti-choice judge to the Supreme Court is necessary during this "time of emergency." Will the Senate just say no?

Abortion-rights advocates only have a 5-4 majority on the Supreme Court. If a Supreme Court Justice retires, Roe v. Wade is threatened. That's why feminists launched the Million 4 Roe Campaign early this year and why the California legislature passed a broad endorsement of legalized abortion. SJR 3, sponsored by Betty Karnette (D-Long Beach) and supported by Lambda Letters, directs President Bush and Congress to take necessary action to preserve Roe's integrity.

While the overwhelming majority of Americans are pro-choice, that is not so in the Senate. Only 37 senators are staunchly pro-choice; an additional 17 have mixed records. Therefore, if an anti-choice Supreme Court Justice is put forward, the best strategy will be a filibuster against the nomination (requiring 41 votes) to force the president to withdraw his nominee.

Feminists have spent 20 years defending abortion clinics and laws. In October, over 170 abortion clinics and doctors' offices received threatening letters claiming to contain anthrax. They were eventually proven to be harmless but the threats from a loose group of violence-prone individuals, called the Army of God, were serious. These people are not usually labeled terrorists, although they have killed doctors, bombed clinics, and routinely threatened clinic staff.

Before legalization, approximately 1.2 million women resorted to illegal abortions yearly and botched illegal abortions caused as many as 5,000 deaths per year. By contrast, according to the Allen Guttmacher Institute, a woman today is statistically less likely to experience complications from an abortion than from a penicillin shot. Pay close attention. Write your senator. For more information, check out www.million4roe.com or go to the Feminist Majority Foundation Web site at www.feminist.org. ###

Tell the Governor Thanks, But Please Finish the Job

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Governor Davis signed AB 25. From his perspective he took a major risk in signing this bill. It does provide very significant new rights to domestic partners, so we do owe letters of thanks to the governor for signing the bill.

However, that is hardly the end of the story. Domestic partners still have far fewer rights than married couples, some say several thousand fewer rights. Families headed by same-gender couples have all the same emotional, financial, and social stresses that more traditional families have. They need and deserve all the same legal support and encouragement provided to the more traditional families.

AB 1338, introduced by Assemblymember Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), would provide that support. The bill would establish a legal concept called the "civil union," which would be available to all persons regardless of their gender. AB 1338 says that people who enter into a civil union will have the same rights, protections, benefits, and responsibilities as are granted people in civil marriages.

The bill also amends several current laws. For example, it says a spouse in a civil union is to be added to any law that now includes the words "spouse," "husband," "wife," "married person," "family," or "family member." The bill also says any law that applies to a formerly married person shall apply to someone formerly in a civil union. Also, any law that applies to a widow or widower of a traditional marriage shall apply to the survivor of a deceased person in a civil union. The bill says the rights of a spouse in a civil union, with respect to the children of either of them, will be the same as in a traditional marriage.

The rules and processes for nullifying or dissolving a civil union would be the same as with traditional marriage. Also, the rights and obligations now imposed on married couples who divorce or nullify their marriage would be applied to the people in a civil union who nullify or dissolve that union.

Education Assistance for Immigrants

by Marty Martinez

This month, Lambda Letters is asking you to write Governor Davis for signing what was potentially an unpopular bill, AB 540 by Assemblymember Marco Antonio Firebaugh (D-Cudahy [East Los Angeles]). This bill will open the doors to higher education for immigrants at a time when immigrants are under fire nationwide.

Under California law, residents of California are allowed to attend California state colleges and universities at a lower tuition than out-of-state individuals, who can pay as much as \$6,000 more per year. Undocumented immigrants have never been able to take advantage of in-state tuition.

AB 540 allows certain undocumented immigrants who have resided in the state for the requisite period of time to attend public secondary schools and pay in-state resident tuition.

Please sign the enclosed letter thanking Governor Davis for signing this important piece of legislation. It is never easy to stand up for the rights of undocumented immigrants and it is less so in this time of anti-immigrant zeal. Therefore, the governor's courage in signing this bill is particularly appreciated. ###

AB 1338 says no public agency may discriminate against people because they are in a civil union. Also, all laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of marital status would prohibit discrimination against people in a civil union.

Here's an additional, very interesting, note. AB 1338 states that neither a civil union nor a marriage shall be invalid because one or both of the spouses has at any time changed his or her sex.

Getting AB 1338 passed and signed by governor is a long shot. But we have got to start working for its passage some time. There is no time like the present. Please write to Governor Davis. Do thank him for signing AB 25 but also please ask him to help finish the job by supporting AB 1338. ###

November Legislative Update

The state law-making process is now over for the year. There may be committee hearings between now and January 1, however all of this year's bills had to be sent to the governor by September 14 and he was required to sign or veto all bills by no later than October 14. The list below includes all the bills on which Lambda Letters Project took a position. If the bills got to the governor, the status line for the bill will tell you whether he signed or vetoed it.

Some bills did not make it out of the Legislature in time, but may be considered again when the Legislature reconvenes in January. Any such bills in this list will show the words "two-year bill" on their status lines. Two-year bills start where they left off; they do not have to start the whole legislative process all over again.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 142 (Stuart Richman, R—Granada Hills)

Purpose: To prohibit healthcare plans from forcing physicians to pay the cost of certain healthcare services.

Status: Vetoed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 276 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To extend to two years a limitation to issue accusations of violations of the right to be free from violence, intimidation, or threats of intimidation, including for persons claimed to be aggrieved by HIV discrimination.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support, requesting addition of gender to the list of prohibited bases of intimidation.

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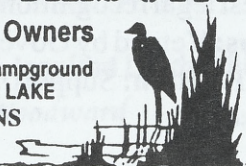
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AB 916 (Fred Keeley, D—Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To expand the existing requirement for school-based AIDS prevention instruction to include instruction on sexually transmitted infection.

Status: Vetoed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 937 (Paul Koretz, D—West Hollywood)

Purpose: To require every healthcare service plan that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses to develop a plan that provides adequate compensation for the reimbursement of providers for the treatment of enrollees infected with HIV. Would require the Department of Health Services to do the same for payment of those who care for Medi-Cal recipients infected with HIV.

Status: Vetoed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1263 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow the state to establish a rapid HIV testing process at designated sites. Test results would be made available to the person in the same appointment at which the test was done.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1292 (Dion Aroner, D—Berkeley)

Purpose: To allow people to purchase and possess intravenous needles and syringes without a prescription. Requires that pharmacies provide purchasers with information regarding safe disposal of syringes.

Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 187 (John Vasconcellos, D—Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health to establish and maintain a voluntary program for the issuance of registry identification cards to qualified

medical marijuana patients, and to establish procedures under which a patient with the card could use marijuana for medical purposes. NOTE: A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision stated that, in spite of Proposition 215, a person may be prosecuted under federal law for possession of marijuana. The court said medical necessity does not justify possession. So signing up for a marijuana registry card may be signing a confession to violation of federal law.

Status: Left on the Senate floor. A two-year bill.

LLP Position: Oppose.

SB 446 (John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require that a healthcare plan or contract may not exclude from coverage any vaccine for AIDS that is approved and recommended by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 622 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To allow the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition branch of the State Department of Health Services to issue grants to local entities to provide certain dental services and information.

Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 26. Hearing cancelled at author's request. The bill is dead, at least for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues

AB 25 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow opposite-gender senior citizen couples to register as domestic partners if one of them is over 62 (currently both must be over 62); allow

people to make medical decisions for their partners under certain circumstances; require certain insurers to offer domestic partner coverage in their group health or disability plans; require many employers to allow employees time off to care for a sick domestic partner; require that a domestic partner be given preference when conservatorship is being considered for a person; add domestic partners to the statutory will form; remove the income tax liability for employer-provided domestic partner health insurance; allow people to receive unemployment insurance, under certain circumstances, when they quit a job to follow a domestic partner. The bill reverses the feature of AB 26, passed in 1999, which allows state and local governments to offer health insurance to the domestic partners of their retirees, but which terminates the insurance for the partner if the retiree dies first.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 64 (Elaine Alquist, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To provide a state income tax deduction for the premiums paid by a taxpayer for long-term care insurance on the taxpayer and his or her spouse and dependents. Alquist may add domestic partners to the bill at the request of Lambda Letters.

Status: Died in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

LLP Position: Support if domestic partners are added alongside spouse.

AB 79 (Sally Havice, D-Cerritos)

Purpose: To require the State Board Education to develop model plans for protecting the safety of students against bullying by their classmates (a big problem for queer youth) and plans for conflict resolution which local school districts may adopt.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 194 (John Longville, D-San Bernardino)

Purpose: To clarify the process to be used by California courts when certain post-operative transsexuals request legal recognition of their new sex.

Status: Vetoed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is the bill's sponsor.



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AB 1193 (Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To provide that an insurer issuing policies protecting against certain residential, liability, and commercial risks may not cancel or refuse to renew a policy solely on the basis that one or more claims have been made against the policy, during the previous 60 months for a loss that is the result of a hate crime committed against a church, non-profit or a related entity. Would require insurance companies to report these claims to the State Insurance Commissioner under certain circumstances. Bill is now supported by the insurance industry.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1278 (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To make a number of technical but helpful changes to the laws regarding probate and regarding healthcare decision-makers when the patient is unable to make decisions for him- or herself. Specifically permits a domestic partner to make healthcare decisions for a patient in a facility that employs the domestic partner, as long as the partner is not the supervising healthcare provider for the patient.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1326 (Denis Mountjoy, R-Arcadia)

Purpose: To prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in public education.

Status: Assigned to Assembly Education Committee. Hearing cancelled at request of author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 1338 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)

Purpose: To establish a legal entity called a civil union, similar to that established in Vermont. Allows two adults to enter a civil union. Does not require that they

be of opposite sexes. Declares that the rights and responsibilities of those who enter a civil union shall be the same as for those who get married.

Status: Referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1395 (Roy Ashburn, R-Bakersfield)

Purpose: To provide funding for counseling of adoptive parents and children, including issues that arise during the adoptive child's adolescence.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Watch.

AB 1649 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people.

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Dropped by the author at the request of Governor Davis. The bill may be taken up again next year. Its first committee would be the Senate Appropriations Committee. Goldberg reports that the governor has offered to encourage the development of regulations by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing that would do much of what AB 1649 was intended to do.

LLP Position: Support. We are cosponsors of the bill.

SB 143 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Attorney General to provide grants to community-based hate violence prevention and response networks.

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 144 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Attorney General to establish, operate, and publicize a toll-free telephone number and a Web site to allow victims and witnesses to report hate crimes.

Status: Failed in Senate Public Safety Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 381 (Wesley Chesbro, D-Arcata)

Purpose: Current law requires city and county Human Relations Commissions to promote mutual understanding and respect of certain groups in society. This bill

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adds certain groups to the groups listed in current law. The new list includes people of all sexual orientations, but does not include people of all gender identities. We have asked Senator Chesbro to add gender identity to the list. At the request of Lambda Letters, gender has been added to this bill.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1049 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)

Purpose: To provide that in San Mateo County, subject to the approval of the board of supervisors, death benefits and survivor's allowances may be payable to a member's surviving domestic partner, as specified.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1121 (Bob Margett, R—Arcadia)

Purpose: To provide a tax credit of 40 percent, subject to federal income tax laws, for corporations that hire qualified state disability insurance recipients, including individuals with HIV and AIDS. Also to provide extended unemployment compensation disability insurance for an additional 26 times an individual's weekly benefit amount to complete approved job training or occupational rehabilitation, as specified.

Status: Made a two-year bill. It will not be acted upon until next year because the energy crisis is draining the state's financial reserves. Bill will be reconsidered next year once the state's financial picture is clearer.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues



AB 5 (Thomas Calderon, D—Montebello)

Purpose: To prohibit an insurer from refusing to issue or renew insurance on a private passenger car solely on the basis of a consumer credit report.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Insurance Committee. Dropped by the author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

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AB 8 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow the state to make grants and loans of up to \$55,000 for reconstruction of commercial and industrial buildings in certain downtown areas, when the buildings will provide low-cost rental housing.

Status: Passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 14 (Jackie Goldberg, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To state the intent of the Legislature to examine the state school facilities program to ensure that allocation formulas reflect the current and future needs for public kindergarten to 12th grade and to examine and assess the needs of the higher educational system, including funding distributions.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Education Committee. Held in the Senate Education Committee without recommendation. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Neutral.

AB 32 (Keith Richman, R—Chatsworth)

Purpose: To create the Cal-Health Program, which would provide coordination of the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs. The bill would authorize providers to screen and temporarily enroll individuals in Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program at the time the person is provided with medical care, and would require full reimbursement of the provider for services covered under those programs. The bill would require licensed hospitals, clinics, and other health facilities to inform individuals about Cal-Health, and in the case of urgent or emergency services, the bill would require that individuals be informed about the program and given an opportunity to apply after services have been rendered. The bill would expand eligibility under the Medi-Cal program to adults with family incomes at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and would require the state to apply to the federal government for waivers to allow federal funds to be used in that regard.

Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 39 (Helen Thomson, D—Woodland)

Purpose: To allow a tax credit, under certain circumstances, to small employers who pay all or part of the cost of health insurance for their employees.

Status: Referred to Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 42 (Howard Wayne, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To establish a state-funded colorectal cancer screening program to be provided to uninsured or under insured persons, over the age of 50 and with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Status: Held in the Senate Inactive file. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 48 (Carl Washington, D—Paramount)

Purpose: To require the state to implement a three-year demonstration project to make grants to eligible alcohol and drug integrated treatment services networks, as defined, in certain counties.

Status: Bill is being amended to specify that funding will come from general funds of the state. Approved Failed passage in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 51 (Kevin Shelley, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require schools to notify parent or guardians when lead is found in the paint in schools.

Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 59 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To expand eligibility of children in low-income families for health insurance coverage through the Healthy Families Program. Children are eligible if they are receiving food stamps or participating in the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Head Start; or the federal school lunch program. The bill requires new procedures to encourage enrollment in the Healthy Families Program.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 108 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D—Duncan Mills)

Purpose: To require the state to issue a pharmacy license to authorize the operation of a pharmacy located on the land of a recognized Indian tribe without a pharmacist licensed under California's pharmacy law subject to certain conditions, which would include a requirement for any pharmacist employed by the pharmacy to possess a license to practice pharmacy issued by another state or territory of the United States. It is often difficult to find pharmacists willing to work on Indian reservations. Most other states recognize each others' pharmacy licenses. Only Florida and California do not. Allowing pharmacists with licenses from other states to work on Indian reservations increases the pool of candidates and increases the chance of finding someone qualified who is willing to work on the reservation.

Status: Assembly Health Committee Chair refused to let the bill be heard because of opposition from California Board of Pharmacy and the pharmacy industry. Is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 114 (Carl Washington, D—Paramount)

Purpose: To provide state funds for grants to residents of cities with populations of over two million to do home repairs to bring their homes into conformance with the city's building codes.

Status: Referred to Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 127 (Marco Firebaugh, D—East Los Angeles)

Purpose: To designate the California Police Activities League, in consultation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, to coordinate, plan, and help implement a statewide youth enrichment sports program to combat juvenile delinquency. Would make grants available to local organizations which establish such programs.

Status: Failed in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 144 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow the exclusion of the value of a car from being considered when determining whether or not a low-income person qualifies for certain publicly funded social service programs. An additional car

would be excluded from consideration when more than one adult lives in the home and at least one adult reports earned income.

Status: Vetoed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 198 (Lou Correa, D-Anaheim)

Purpose: To declare legislative intent to create alternatives for Native American tribes in California to finance and develop infrastructure and public works. Many Indian reservations need considerable improvement to schools roads and other infrastructure. Alternatives, beyond gambling casinos, are needed to finance these improvements.

Status: Has been made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 423 (Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys)

Purpose: Farm labor contractors, and the people they employ to act as farm labor contractors, must be licensed by the California Labor Commissioner. This bill requires the farm labor contractor to be sure that employees acting for them have a valid current license. It also requires farmers to determine that farm labor

contractors have the necessary license before entering into a contract with them

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 503 (Virginia Strom-Martin, D-Duncan Mills)

Purpose: To establish a grant program for public schools in California to develop, expand, and strengthen dual-language education programs. These programs are taught in both English and a minority language. It allows English language-native children to become proficient in both English and another language. It allows other students to become proficient in both their native language and English.

Status: Held in Senate. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 540 (Marco Firebaugh, D-East Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow all graduates of California high schools, under specified conditions, to pay the California resident tuition rate for attending a California public college or university. Would allow many immigrant students, who now must pay the much higher non-resident tuition, to pay the resident tuition instead.

Status: Signed.

LP Position: Support.

AB 548 (George Runner, R-Lancaster)

Purpose: To require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and the State Department of Health Services to establish a specialty care program for persons who have had problems accessing specialty care in under served areas.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 596 (Gloria Negrete McLeod, D-Montclair)

Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to test all inmates for Hepatitis C 60 days prior to being paroled, as specified. This bill would also require inmates who test positive for the virus to complete a Hepatitis C education program administered by the Department of Corrections. Would also require the department to see if an inmate, who tests positive for hepatitis, qualifies for veteran's health benefits and to inform the inmate if he or she qualifies.

Status: Referred to Assembly Public Safety Committee. Hearing cancelled at author's request. Bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

A Small Request...

...from the mail handlers. When you prepare your letters to return to Lambda Letters for processing and forwarding, the volunteers ask that you observe a few customs:

✓ Return only the letters that you want forwarded to the appropriate officials.

✓ Fold all your returned letters as one set per person. We unfold and refold individual letters into a packet during the tracking process.

✓ Fold the letters into equal thirds if possible.

✓ Returning letters for two people in one envelope requires 57 cents postage if all letters are returned.

✓ If you send your letters directly to the addresses, let us know. We keep track of total letters sent and which members are sending letters.

Thank you.

AB 675 (Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To provide for improved due process and notification procedures involving the compassionate release of prisoners with HIV/AIDS or other diseases who have twelve months or fewer to live and who are deemed not to be a threat to the public.

Status: Vetoed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 698 (Herb Wesson, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To create the Office of Immigrant Assistance in the office of the Attorney General to provide education and outreach services, as defined, to the resident immigrant community of the state. Would also require that the information developed for these purposes be printed or broadcast in any language deemed necessary to reach immigrant communities.

Status: Vetoed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 763 (Kevin Shelley, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that information and materials provided over the Internet explaining services available from a state agency, or notice of availability of materials made in electronic form consistent with use over the Internet, shall be translated into any non-English language spoken by a substantial number of people served by the agency, and also distributed through any applicable Web sites under those circumstances.

Status: Is being dropped by the author. The provisions of this bill are being added to AB 805.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 788 (Marco Firebaugh, D—East Los Angeles)

Purpose: To broaden the definition of racial profiling by state or local police. Provides for money damages

from law-enforcement personnel and public agencies to victims of racial profiling. Requires state and local police forces to report traffic stops and to include data about the stops relating to possible racial profiling. Specifies that such reports not include information by which the person stopped could be identified. Would also make police officers and their agencies liable for violation of racial profiling laws.

Status: Did not make it out of the Assembly. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 800 (Herb Wesson, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from requiring any particular language to be spoken in the workplace unless there is a business need for it.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 805 (Kevin Shelley, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require each state agency that maintains a Web site to provide links on the home page of its Web site to appropriate non-English information, including information at least in Spanish and Chinese, consistent with the requirements of the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 989 (Wilma Chan, D—Oakland)

Purpose: Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish programs to provide food assistance and cash assistance for non-citizens who, due to their immigration status, are not eligible for federal food stamps and for SSI/SSP benefits, and specifies that an applicant who is otherwise eligible for the program but entered the United States after August 22, 1996, and who is not otherwise exempt, shall be eligible for assistance for the period beginning on October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2001. This bill would eliminate the termination date of that period of eligibility. People in need could continue getting assistance.

Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

*Lavender
Valentines*

Jackie Mahone-Tyson and Karen Mahone-Smith

12 years on November 25, 2001

~ Congratulations! ~

AB 1159 (Robert Pacheco, R—City of Industry)

Purpose: Governor Davis line-item-vetoed \$126 million from the state budget bill that was meant for the state's community colleges. That was more than one quarter of all the line-item vetoes by the governor. Pacheco rewrote this bill to restore \$98 million of those cuts to those colleges. The bill is a budget bill and is to go into effect immediately if signed by the governor. For those two reasons, it requires a two-thirds approval by each house of the Legislature rather than a simple majority.

Status: Dropped in favor of SB 735, which does much the same as this bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1321 (Dion Aroner, D—Berkeley)

Purpose: To create the Health Utilities Board, which would be charged with providing comprehensive, quality health care to all Californians and controlling health care costs through rate setting, eliminating waste and inefficiency, and achieving public accountability for meeting standards of high quality care.

Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1423 (Helen Thomson, D—Davis)

Purpose: To include licensed marriage and family therapist, and clinical social worker, services within the scope of Medi-Cal covered benefits to the extent that federal matching funds are available, including home- and community-based services approved by the Department of Health and Human Services for beneficiaries with a diagnosis of AIDS (or ARC) who require intermediate care or a higher-level of care.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet. Is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

ABX13 (Roderick Wright, D—South Central Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the California Public Utilities Commission to take steps to increase participation in the CARE Program, an electric and gas payment assistance program for low-income people.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

ACR 17 (George Nakano, D—Torrance)

Purpose: To declare February 19, 2001, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 21 (Martha Escutia, D—Norwalk)

Purpose: To require school districts to inspect all schools constructed prior to 1992 for lead hazards and to devise an appropriate abatement plan, where necessary; require the Department of Health Services to provide technical assistance; require the school district to carry out the abatement of lead hazards; and require school districts, subject to funding being made available, to provide training to maintenance workers to enable them to properly identify and abate lead hazards.

Status: Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 30 (Wesley Chesbro, D—Arcata)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Mental Health, the Department of Finance, and the Office of the Legislative Analyst to form a workgroup to study various options to restructure mental health services and funding in California, and would require the workgroup to make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor Davis on or before January 31, 2002. People of color certainly have no more mental health problems than anyone else. However, they are among the most uninsured in the state and whatever insurance is available often has little or no mental health coverage.

Status: Vetoed.

LLP Position: Support

SB 41 (Deirdre Alpert, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To require the State Librarian to allocate grants to develop Native American instructional materials for public schools.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 59 (Martha Escutia, D—Norwalk)

Purpose: To authorize demonstration projects to allow healthcare coverage for immigrants, homeless individuals, people living with HIV/AIDS, and other popula-

tions currently facing health disparities. The bill would authorize grants to healthcare providers and community-based clinics to organize into formalized networks that provide healthcare services to migrant populations as they move through the state during the year. The bill would authorize grants to establish demonstration projects that would assist healthcare providers in developing enabling programs making the targeted groups aware of the healthcare programs available to them.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support

SB 98 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)

Purpose: To permit certain cities and counties to contract with the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, jointly, to provide specified services under the Medi-Cal program to low-income persons with a dual diagnosis of alcohol or drug addiction and serious, persistent mental illness.

Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 410 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from requiring employees to agree to arbitrate any claim arising under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. Would prohibit employers from firing, harassing, expelling, or otherwise discriminating against an employee for refusing to agree to such arbitration.

Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on April 17. Hearing cancelled by author. Is a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?

If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.

The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

SB 735 (Sponsored by the Senate Budget Committee)

Purpose: To restore \$99 million for state community colleges that Governor Davis deleted from the budget bill he signed earlier this year.

Status: Signed by the governor, but he deleted \$66 million of the \$99 million in the bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 987 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)

Purpose: To require proper implementation of the previously passed Dymally-Alatorre Act. That act required state and local agencies to offer their services in languages other than English when there is a significant need. Surveys have found that many agencies are not complying with the earlier act.

Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee for a hearing on July 6. Hearing cancelled at request of author.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 4 (Patricia Bates, R–Laguna Nigel)

Purpose: This bill has been revised. Existing law requires any person convicted of specified sex offenses to register—for the rest of his or her life while residing or located within California—with the chief of police or the sheriff, as specified, and with the chief of police of a campus of the University of California, the California State University, or community college if the person is residing or located upon the campus or in any of its facilities, within five working days of coming into, or changing his or her residence or location within, any city, county, or city and county, or campus. This bill would apply these provisions to persons carrying on a vocation, as defined, and add a provision that would require transient persons carrying on a vocation, and employees at university and college campuses, to register and appear personally to notify the campus police department within five working days of changing his or her location or of ceasing to be enrolled or employed at the college or university.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 6 (Tony Cardenas, D–Mission Hills)

Purpose: To permit schools to establish before- and after-school enrichment programs for children, and to establish maximum grants for these programs.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 43 (Herb Wesson, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the Commission on the Status of Women to evaluate the compensation and classification plans for state civil service and related employees and the employees of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and the California State University and to determine where compensation and classification inequities exist, based on comparability of the value of work. It would require the commission to report to the Legislature and the parties meeting and conferring under the Ralph C. Dills Act.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 130 (Tony Cardenas, D–Sylmar)

Purpose: To expand and reorganize a state-funded family planning program to make it a comprehensive preventive and health screening program for low-income women under 65. Would provide funding for family planning services, but specifically excludes funding for abortion-related services or advice. Current law already prohibits spending for abortions and this law leaves that provision unchanged.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Author decided to drop the bill for this year.

LLP Position: Support, but with reservations about the abortion issue.

AB 160 (Patricia Bates, R–Laguna Niguel)

Purpose: The bill has been revised. The bill would direct the Judicial Council of California to promulgate a protocol, for adoption by local courts, to provide for coordination of all orders regarding the same persons. This bill would require that the protocol include mechanisms for communication and information sharing, as specified, and permit family or juvenile court orders to coexist with criminal court orders, as long as the orders protect the safety of the parties, as specified. This bill would also require a court that modifies, extends, or terminates an order protecting a victim of violent crime from contact with the defendant to transmit that modification, extension, or termination to the law enforcement

agency that entered the protective order into the Domestic Violence Restraining Order System.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 180 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: To exempt from state sales tax items sold by a thrift store in support of an agency that provides hospice care to people with HIV/AIDS. This bill eliminates the ending date for the tax exemption which is in current law. The bill previously provided a tax exemption to thrift stores that support programs for those with cancer. Cancer was dropped from the because there was too much opposition to it.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 664 (John Dutra, D–Fremont)

Purpose: To provide state funding to ten long-established domestic violence shelters that had been denied state funds solely on technical grounds, such as their funding requests were typed in the wrong font.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 731 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)

Purpose: To clarify and strengthen the rules for enforcing restraining orders that were issued by courts outside of California.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 37 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)

Purpose: To require healthcare service plans and certain disability insurers to provide coverage for all healthcare services related to the treatment of an enrollee or insured in clinical trials for new cancer medications. The study participant must have been diagnosed with cancer.

Status: Signed by Governor Davis.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)

Purpose: To require the court, when considering issuance of a protective order, to search specified records and databases to determine if the proposed subject of the order has any specified prior criminal or misdemeanor convictions or outstanding warrants, is on parole or probation, or is or was the subject of other

protective or restraining orders. Would require the prosecuting attorney, in all prosecutions of certain crimes when a conviction is obtained, to cause a search to be made of specified databases, for review by the court, to determine if the defendant is the subject of any protective or restraining orders and to notify other courts of the pending prosecution. Implementation by the courts is based on the courts having adequate funding.

Status: Signed.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 217 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require counties to include the development of services to domestic violence victims in the county CalWORKS plan, and to specify services to assist victims of domestic violence to become self-sufficient. CalWORKS is a program designed to help welfare recipients return to work.

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 224 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: To require the department of Health Services to submit a state plan amendment to the federal Health Care Financing Administration adopting the optional categorically needy eligibility group described in the federal Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000, thereby providing breast and cervical cancer treatment under the Medi-Cal program, subject to federal financial participation. The optional categorically needy described in the federal bill are low income people being given cancer treatment, paid for by the state, but whose circumstances do not allow the state to request matching federal funds to help cover the cost of the treatment.

Status: Dropped by the author for this year. She thinks much of this bill's purpose was accomplished through other budget trailer bills. She might take the bill up again next year to accomplish any remaining goals of the bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 927 (Martha Escutia, D-Norwalk)

Purpose: To require the appointment in domestic violence proceedings, and in other settings mandated by the court, of an interpreter for a person who is deaf or hearing-impaired as well as the appointment of a

foreign language interpreter for a person not proficient in English; to require certified sign language interpreters in these proceedings; and to limit the services of foreign language interpreters to certified interpreters. The bill would provide for the waiver of fees for an interpreter for a petitioner who is not proficient in English in domestic violence proceedings, as well as for any person who appears *in forma pauperis* (with court fees waived), or for any other party pursuant to a court order. This bill would also require the Judicial Council to establish additional domestic violence training requirements for interpreters, as specified, and to conduct a public education and notification program

Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill is dead for this year.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 993 (Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont)

Purpose: To increase the amount of money paid by the state to child care centers for the cost of caring for low income children.

Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and referred to the Senate Committee on Education. Has been made a two-year bill.

LLP Position: Support.

SJR 3 (Betty Karnette, D of Long Beach)

Purpose: To send a resolution to the federal executive, legislative and judicial branches of government that every effort should be made at the state and federal level to protect *Roe v. Wade*.

Status: Approved by the Legislature. Goes directly the federal government. Governor Davis does not need to sign the bill first.

LLP Position: Support.

###

See Copies of State Bills

View any state bill listed here by going to the
Lambda Letters Project Web site!
Go to www.lambdaleters.org and click on the Legislative
Update button. Click on the bill number you're interested
in and choose "HTML" to view it.

Disappointment

Continued from page 1

to homosexual couples: Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Periodically I get letters and phone calls from folks saying People of Color issues are not "our issues" and that we should not be wasting time on them when so much needs to be done for the LGBT community. These comments ignore several facts. For example, many in the LGBT community are people of color. They probably would not agree that POC issues are not their issues.

In the first nine months of this year Lambda Letters supported 9 HIV/AIDS bills and 14 LGBT bills. During that time we delivered 42,158 letters and e-mails to elected officials on HIV/AIDS issues and 42,576 on LGBT issues. We have hardly been neglecting those issues.

Also, we should never forget the immense debt that we owe people of color. California eliminated the ban on gay sex in the 1970s. It did so because of the persistent efforts of then-Assemblymember Willie Brown (D-San Francisco), an African-American. He re-introduced the bill to decriminalize gay sex five times before it was finally passed. I call that dedication to our cause.

In 1989 then-Senator Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles) introduced a bill requiring state and local police agencies to count and report hate crimes, including sexual orientation-based hate crimes, that occur in their jurisdiction. The bill is now the law of California. Diane Watson is African-American.

In 1997 the University of California Board of Regents considered approving domestic partner health benefits for UC employees. The policy was vigorously opposed by then-Governor Pete Wilson. One of the Regents, Ward Connerly, fought even harder in support of the policy and the Regents did approve the benefits. This precedent probably made it easier for the state legislature to approve the first domestic partner bill, AB 26, in 1999. You guessed it: Ward Connerly is African-American too.

In 1999 the legislature approved AB 1001, which bans sexual orientation-based discrimination in California. This successfully ended a drive that began in the early 1970s. AB 1001 was introduced by then-Assemblymember Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles), a Latino.

HIV/AIDS Issue

Continued from page 3

Much of the cost of treating the diseases that result from sharing dirty needles, and much of the human suffering that goes along with it, could be avoided by a simple step. California could join 45 and decriminalize the sale by pharmacies, and the possession of, hypodermic syringes. That is what AB 1292 does.

Please write to the members of the Assembly Health Committee. Urge them to approve AB 1292.

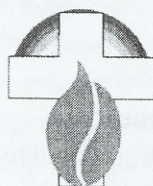
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This year Lambda Letters and the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE) tried to get a bill banning discrimination against transgendered people introduced in the state legislature. Eric Astacaan of CAPE concentrated on finding a legislator to introduce the bill while I worked on building community support. On February 23, the last day that bills could be introduced for this year, Eric told me he had been unable to find an author for the bill. Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) had agreed initially but changed her mind because she said she had too many other bills already.

I called several lobby groups, asking them to call Goldberg and persuade her to introduce the bill. Elizabeth Guillen of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund was among the first to call her. Later that day, Assemblymember Goldberg introduced the bill.

In summary, it really is true that the LGBT community owes a huge debt of gratitude to people of color. Our support of the POC community on their issues is just a fair payback for the support they have given us.

###



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What Does AB 25 Do?

Governor Davis has signed the domestic partner bill, AB 25. Now that it is law, we decided you should know more about this important piece of legislation. (We acknowledge, with gratitude, that most of the following summary of AB 25 was provided by the office of Assemblymember Carole Migden, the author of the bill.)

AB 25 extends basic protections to lesbian, gay, and senior citizen families that register as domestic partners. Current law provides a domestic partner registry in the Secretary of State's office, hospital visitation rights, and health insurance coverage for state and local public employees and retirees. However, under current law health insurance for the domestic partner of a state or local government retiree is terminated if the retiree dies first.

AB 25 proposes several new family rights and protections.

Health insurance continuation: Health insurance for the domestic partner of a state or local government employee may continue, even if the retiree dies first, as long as the retiree chose a retirement option that allows retirement checks to continue coming to the domestic partner after the death of the retiree.

Health insurance availability: Health insurers must offer domestic partner health coverage for small businesses who may purchase coverage for their employees' domestic partners. Employers are not required to buy the domestic partner insurance.

Health coverage taxation: This law eliminates state income taxes, not faced by other families, on the value of employer-based health coverage for dependents. Currently people must pay taxes on the value of employer-paid health insurance for their domestic partners.

Right to recover wrongful death/emotional distress damages: These are substantive tort rights only extended to certain family members, in a hierarchy beginning with spouses. AB 25 provides domestic partners the same status as spouses. Thus domestic partners are given the right to sue for wrongful death/emotional distress damages.

Sick leave: Employers are required to allow employees to use sick leave to care for their domestic partners.

Unemployment insurance: Domestic partners may collect unemployment benefits, as spouses currently may, when they voluntarily quit a job to relocate with their domestic partner.

Disability insurance: Domestic partners may apply for state disability insurance on their partner's behalf if, because of the disability, the partner is unable to apply.


Conservatorship: Domestic partners are guaranteed equal standing with other family members in court proceedings governing who controls an individual's assets and other decision-making when one is adjudged incompetent. Prior to AB 25, a sibling or parent of a person could cut the person's partner out of the decision-making process.

Medical decision-making: Domestic partners are now on an equal playing field with other family members with regard to medical decisions, when the patient is unable to make his/her own decisions. Prior to AB 25, the partner could be cut out of the process.

Statutory will form: State government code specifies who should inherit if someone dies without a will. The list of those who should inherit does not include domestic partners. AB 25 puts domestic partners at the top of the list (along with spouses) of those who should inherit if a person dies without a will.

Step-parent adoption: Allows a domestic partner who is already the parent of a child to extend parental rights and responsibilities to the other partner, subject to the consent of the partner with the child and any other individual with parental rights over the child.

###



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Pleas Help us Correct Our Mistakes

Putting out the Lambda Letters Project newsletter each month, along with the sample letters you sign, is not as easy as it may seem. As you can probably imagine, the inevitable time crunch when deadline approaches occasionally causes errors to slip through.

If you're the sort of person who cringes at the sight of a typo and awkward phrase—or if you know someone like that—please contact us! We are looking for volunteers who would like to help us proofread our newsletter and sample letters each month. Let us know your availability and interest and we will do our best to make the appropriate arrangements so that you can help us out. (Heck, we'll even list you in each issue as our official proofreader!)

Thanks for your consideration. ###

Don't Know Who Represents You?

Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

Domestic Partner Benefits Come of Age

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) reports that a very impressive number of employers are offering domestic partner benefits. It seems clear that the homophobes are losing on this issue. For example, the HRC says that, as of August 2001, 4,284 employers offer domestic partner health benefits. About two-thirds of them offer benefits to both opposite-sex and same-sex couples. Of the Fortune 500 companies (the 500 wealthiest corporations in the nation), 145 offer these benefits.

More and more companies are also adding sexual orientation to their non-discrimination policies. For example, 294 of the Fortune 500 have done so.

Civil rights for our community is an irresistible force. We shall overcome! ###

Slower Progress Made on Gender Rights

According to Gender PAC, a national lobby group for the transgender community, at least seven major companies have employment policies that prohibit employment discrimination against transgendered people. The companies include American Airlines, Xerox Corporation, Kodak, Apple Computer, Verizon, Lucent Technology, and Avaya.

Legislative progress in California has been slower. For the second year in a row the state legislature passed a law making it easier for post-operative transsexuals to obtain court orders requiring the issuance of a corrected birth certificate. The new certificate shows the person's new sex. For the second year in a row Governor Davis vetoed the bill.

This year's version of the bill was AB 194. Current law says a transsexual should petition the court in the county of his or her residence. That works fine for someone living in California. It doesn't work for people born here but now living outside the state. Only a California court can issue such an order. AB 194 simply said people can, as an alternative, petition a court in their county of birth. The governor said AB 194 is unnecessary.

Also for the second year in a row, legislation was introduced to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people. And, for the second year in a row, the bill stopped in the Senate. This year's version of the bill was AB 1649. This bill never lost a vote. However, at the request of the governor, the author of the bill, Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), agreed not to push the bill further this year.

In return for her holding off on AB 1649, the governor offered to make regulatory changes—and changes in the practices of the State Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)—that would accomplish much of what AB 1649 was meant to do. If the governor does not come through on this promise, Goldberg does have the option of moving AB 1649 forward next year. We have spoken with a staff person at DFEH who is working on the issue and it does appear that the department is making a good-faith effort on the issue.

###

PROXY STATEMENT

IMPORTANT

Please complete, sign and return this proxy statement immediately. We will be unable to conduct business at the annual membership meeting unless we have a quorum of one third of the membership present in person or by proxy.

FOR THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT
THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I hereby appoint Lori Norman and Michael Butler, and each of them with full power of substitution, as proxies to vote for me at the Annual Membership Meeting of the Project to be held on Saturday January 19, 2002 at the Lambda Community Center at 1927 L Street, Sacramento, CA at 9:30 AM.

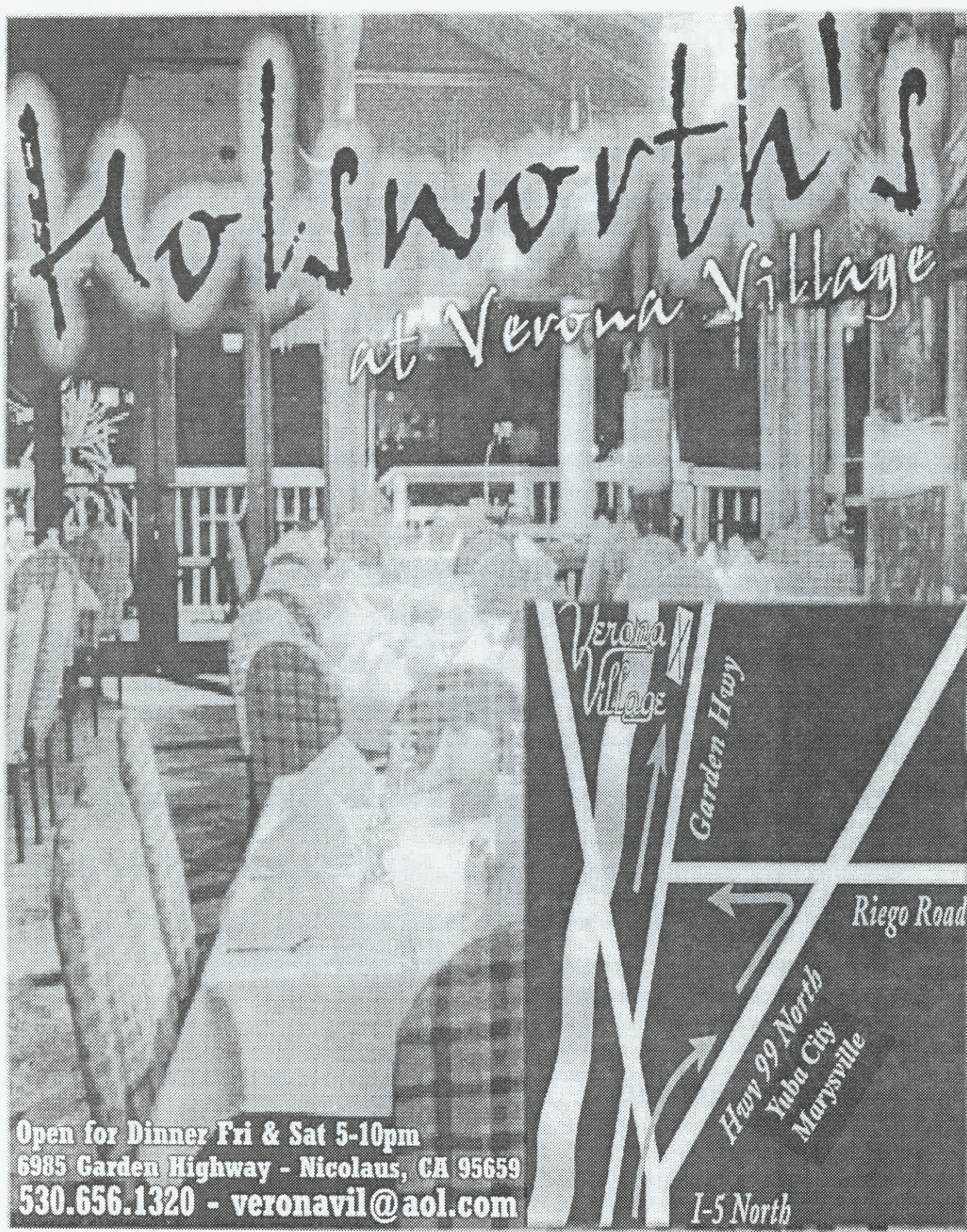
PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES

1. ☐ For election to the Board of Directors, any appropriate person nominated to the position except for the following persons:
_____.
☐ WITHHOLD AUTHORITY for all nominees.
2. ☐ FOR ☐ AGAINST ☐ ABSTAIN the year 2002 budget as presented to the meeting or as amended in that meeting.
3. At their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote on such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
4. I understand that, if I attend the Annual Membership Meeting, I may revoke this proxy.

Full Name(s) (**PLEASE PRINT**) - _____

Signature(s) - _____

Dated: _____



Open for Dinner Fri & Sat 5-10pm
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